

## Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund Site January 2006

### SITE DESCRIPTION

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is investigating groundwater and soil contamination at the Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site. Formerly two separate WQARF sites, the Shannon Road-Rillito Creek and the El Camino del Cerro sites were combined in January 2005, as available information shows the sites to be connected. The ADEQ WQARF program, which is also known as state Superfund, investigates and cleans up contaminated groundwater and soil sites throughout the state.

The Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro WQARF Site is located in northwest Tucson, and is bounded approximately by Rudasill Road to the north, Meadowbrook Park to the east (north of the Rillito River), Shannon Road to the east (south of the Rillito River), El Camino del Cerro Road to the south, and Camino de la Tierra and the Santa Cruz River to the west. The site consists of industrial and residential properties to the northeast of Interstate 10 (I-10), and the closed El Camino del Cerro Landfill, which occupies approximately 20 acres in the southwest portion of the site.

Groundwater at the site is contaminated with tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), dichloroethene (DCE), 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE), benzene and vinyl chloride occurring over regulatory limits. Lead has also been found in the soil on a portion of a property in the site that is currently not occupied. Depth to groundwater is about 145 feet below ground surface.



Metro Water's South Shannon well remains out of service while upgrades to the treatment system take place.

### SITE HISTORY

The El Camino del Cerro Landfill was operated by Pima County between 1973 and 1977. Pima County initiated a Remedial Investigation in the vicinity of the El Camino del Cerro Landfill and northeast of I-10 in 1987. This investigation included characterization of the nature and extent of groundwater contamination, the composition of landfill gas and the evaluation of aquifer characteristics near the landfill.

Pima County treated contaminated soil vapors at the closed El Camino del Cerro Landfill by using a soil vapor extraction system. Pima County shut down the system to allow the landfill soil gas to rebound.

Many of the private wells along Casa Grande Highway and Highway Drive were impacted by the groundwater contamination. Pima County supplied bottled water to affected businesses until they purchased the private wells and connected the properties to the municipal water system. ADEQ has since conducted groundwater and soil investigations within the sites.

In the mid-1990s, an initial investigation of the Arizona Wrecksperts property, formerly part of the AMRI Oil facility, took place after a tar-like substance was found on the property. The ADEQ Site Assessment Unit removed soil contaminated by lead and waste oil from the property in 1996, and replaced it with clean soil. In February 2001, lead-contaminated soil was found in the southeast corner of the Western Trailer Park property, also formerly part of the AMRI



Upgrades to the treatment system at the South Shannon well include pump upgrades and the installation of a granular activated carbon system.

**Oil property.** The lot is unoccupied, and there is currently no direct risk to residents. In 2001, a site investigation was conducted at the former E.C. Winter Oil property, located on Curtis Road, east of I-10. E.C. Winter Oil was a used oil recycling facility from before 1967 until 1974, and has been a residential property since then. In the fall of 2001, ADEQ excavated contaminated soil from the property for disposal in a permitted landfill as an early response action, and replaced it with clean fill.

The El Camino del Cerro site was placed on the WQARF Registry in August 1998, and the Shannon Road-Rillito Creek site was placed on the WQARF Registry in April 1999.

## SITE INVESTIGATION/CLEANUP ACTION

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been found in several production wells in the area, including the City of Tucson Z-006A water supply well, the Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District (Metro Water) South Shannon well and the Acacia Gardens Mobile Home Park water supply well. The Tucson Water and Acacia Gardens wells are no longer in service.

The Metro Water South Shannon well was equipped with wellhead treatment. Recently, the effectiveness of the treatment system was observed to be decreasing. Metro Water has taken the well out of service while the treatment system is being upgraded, and it will resume production in summer 2006. Water is being provided to customers from other wells in the Metro Water network until the upgrade is completed.

ADEQ is currently conducting the Remedial Investigation (RI) as part of the WQARF site remediation process. The RI activities help determine what contaminants are present at the site, the extent of the contamination, and potential sources of the contamination. Following the RI will be a Feasibility Study, which will identify and assess remedial options.

## HEALTH/WATER QUALITY

There are potential risks associated with exposure to VOCs, principally through drinking contaminated groundwater. No one is known to be drinking contaminated water at this site; therefore, no one is known to be exposed or at risk of exposure to the contaminants. Cleanup activities are important to ensure the quality of future drinking water supplies.



Contaminated soil was excavated from a residential property, formerly the site of an oil recycling facility.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

A Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the site was established in October 2000, and holds public meetings approximately four times a year. The purpose of the CAB is to advise ADEQ, the public and other interested parties about the issues and concerns of the community related to the investigation and cleanup of a WQARF site. The CAB consists of a diversified cross-section of the community, including residents, water providers, and other interested groups.

### Technical Information:

Sherri Zendri  
ADEQ Project Manager  
400 W. Congress St., Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701  
(520) 770-3126  
E-mail: zendri.sherri@azdeq.gov

### Community Involvement:

Melissa Hayes  
ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator  
400 W. Congress St., Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701  
(520) 770-3309  
E-mail: hayes.melissa@azdeq.gov

Complete public files regarding the site are located at ADEQ's Phoenix offices. Call 1(800) 234-5677 for information.

For more information on this WQARF site or other WQARF sites in the State of Arizona, please visit the ADEQ Web site at: [www.azdeq.gov](http://www.azdeq.gov). In the left-hand column, click on Waste Programs, then on Superfund Programs. Look for the Site Information and Maps Link.

Para información en español sobre este sitio, se puede contactar a Melissa Hayes al (520) 770-3309.



Members of the community learn about the history of the WQARF Site at a tour of the El Camino del Cerro Landfill.